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**MAYOR EMANUEL ANNOUNCES CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF PLAN TO BUILD
OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER IN WOODLAWN**

City Council today took a major step towards the construction of the Obama Presidential Center by approving the site for construction in Woodlawn. The center is expected to bring more than \$3.1 billion in economic development, jobs and cultural benefits to Chicago's South Side.

"The Obama Presidential Center will not only create jobs, but create future leaders and be a powerful economic, educational and cultural engine for Chicago's South Side," Mayor Emanuel said. "Today we took another step forward towards creating a living testament to the Obama legacy."

Planned for a 19.3-acre site on the 5900-6200 blocks of South Stony Island Avenue along the western edge of Jackson Park, the estimated \$500 million project is expected to generate 700,000 annual visitors and create more than 7,500 permanent and temporary jobs.

More than half of the space in the Center will be free and open to the public. The plan includes an eight-story exhibit and administration building and a pair of single-story cultural buildings that will surround a central plaza. In addition to ticketed exhibition spaces, the interconnected buildings will contain community resources, including a winter garden, an auditorium, food services, recording studios, meeting rooms and a 5,000-square-foot branch of the Chicago Public Library system.

The project also includes a two-story athletic and community center, a 450-space underground parking garage, as well as select roadway closures that will expand park spaces around the complex, improve pedestrian safety and improve vehicular circulation around the complex. The adjacent landscape will include playscapes for children, a fruit and vegetable garden, and numerous year-round open space amenities, such as a sledding hill.

The complex, designed by architects Billie Tsien and Tod Williams, will function as a global community center that showcases the South Side to the world while reflecting President Barack Obama's inclusivity goals as a community organizer.

The Obama Foundation anticipates at least 45 percent of construction jobs will be filled by M/WBE firms, with half of all construction jobs going to Chicago residents.

City Council's approval caps three years of work that began in 2015, when Chicago was selected to be home for the center. Since that summer, the Emanuel administration and Foundation staff, in

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conjunction with the City's Departments of Planning and Development, Law and Transportation, and the Chicago Park District, worked on the plans with Ald. Leslie Hairston (5th Ward), local community groups and stakeholders, along with state and federal officials.

"I strongly support the building of the Obama Presidential Center. The economic impact will be unlike anything we have seen before on the South Side. The Obama Presidential Center was developed alongside 5th Ward residents and will be for 5th Ward residents," Alderman Leslie Hairston said. "I want to thank all the residents who have had their voices heard and our Mayor for his tireless work to make take this concept and make it a reality. It is time to bring the Obama Presidential Center to the place where we know it always belonged: Jackson Park in the 5th Ward."

Additional federal reviews are being conducted jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and the National Park Service, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The plan was unanimously approved by the Chicago Plan Commission on May 18.

The Obama Presidential Center is expected to open to the public in 2021.

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